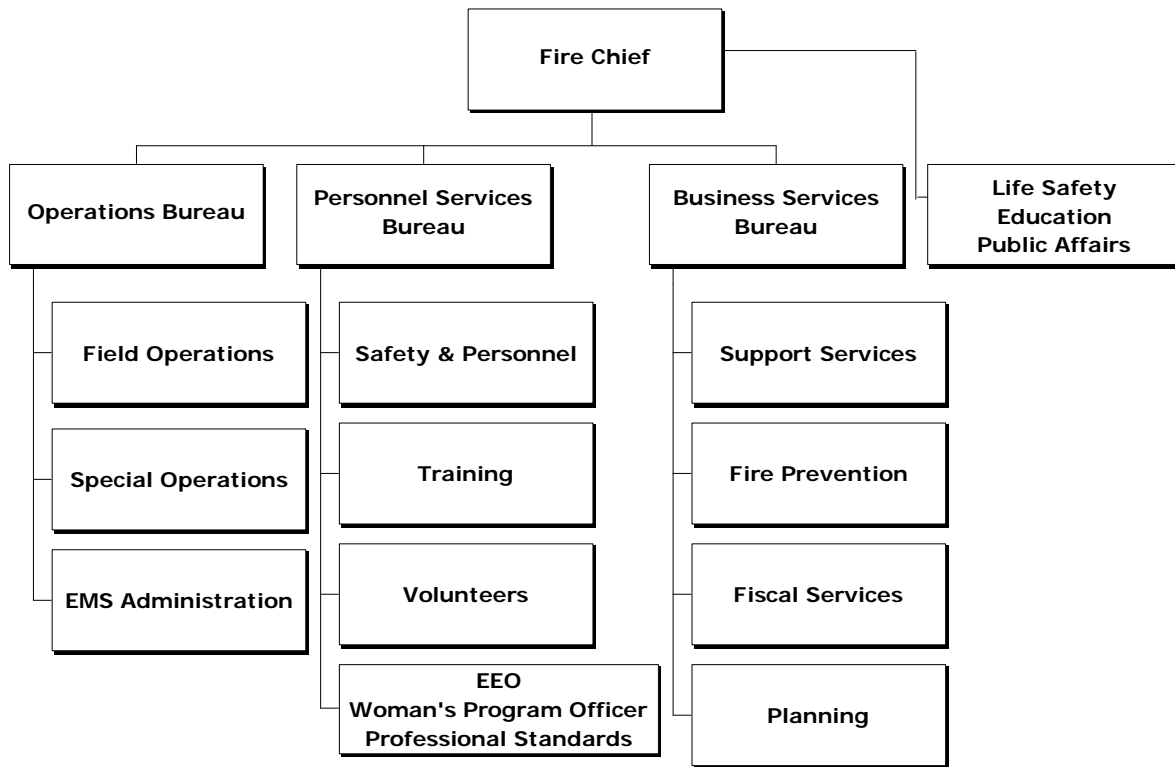


# Fire and Rescue Department



## Mission

To provide the highest quality services to protect the lives, property and environment of our community.

# Fire and Rescue Department

AGENCY DASHBOARD			
Key Data	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1. Total incident responses	90,205	91,308	95,364
2. Total patients transported	49,739	48,966	51,425
3. AED response rate within 5 minutes (National Standard 90 percent)	57.00%	56.37%	54.57%
4. First ALS provider on scene within 5 minutes	58.20%	58.89%	58.26%
5. ALS transport unit on scene within 9 minutes (National Standard 90 percent)	86.70%	89.10%	89.95%
6. Engine Company on a structure fire within 5 minutes, 20 seconds (National Standard 90 percent)	52.40%	53.00%	51.90%
7. 15 operational personnel on a structure fire within 9 minutes, 20 seconds (National Standard 90 percent)	83.90%	87.20%	83.18%
8. Fire inspections conducted	18,024	21,920	20,942
9. Fire systems testing conducted	16,450	15,097	15,954
10. Total fire loss for commercial & residential structures (in millions)	\$6.8	\$12.3	\$15.9
11. Preschool and kindergarten students educated	22,371	26,223	23,260
12. Senior citizens educated	8,545	9,479	7,810
13. Preschool and kindergarten fire deaths	0	0	0
14. Preschool and kindergarten burn injuries	1	0	0
15. Senior citizen fire deaths	0	2	0
16. Senior citizen burn injuries	2	3	1

# Fire and Rescue Department

## Focus

The Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) currently operates 38 fire stations. Fire stations are staffed full time by County personnel with supplemental services provided by volunteers. The department operates from an “all-hazards” platform and serves Fairfax County and its residents by suppressing fires; providing advanced life support; pre-hospital emergency medical care; rescue operations (i.e. searching for and rescuing persons who become trapped in fires, and extrication from vehicle accidents); and special operations, including the release or spill of hazardous materials, technical rescue (i.e. swift water rescue, building or trench collapse, high angle or rope rescue), marine operations (i.e. water rescue, boat fires, fuel spills) on the lower Potomac and Pohick Bay, and performing emergency planning. The Fire Marshal’s Office investigates fires, bombings and hazardous material releases. The department also supports regional, national, and international emergency response operations during disaster situations through maintaining and supporting the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team (Virginia Task Force 1), the National Capital Region Incident Management Team, and other response groups. The US&R Team is one of only two teams in the United States federally sponsored for international disaster response.

Additionally, FRD provides critical non-emergency services to prevent the 911 call, such as educating the public on fire and personal safety issues, providing public information and prevention education, and enforcing fire prevention and life safety codes in all public buildings. In late FY 2013, FRD initiated a countywide community outreach program titled “Safety in Our Community” (SIOC) which involves fire personnel canvassing neighborhoods to check for and install working smoke alarms and delivering fire and life safety information. In FY 2014, the SIOC program was extended to include “Wellness in Our Community” (WIOC) which involves fire personnel providing presentations at senior centers and assisted living facilities as well as delivering File of Life forms to County residents.

FRD also operates a number of facilities to ensure personnel are trained and prepared to perform the mission. The Fire and Rescue Academy provides firefighter, rescue, and emergency medical training and conducts citizen emergency response training. Two apparatus shops are staffed to ensure emergency response vehicles are safe and service-ready.

FRD actively engages at local, regional and national levels to meet the challenges of emergency response and prevention. Robust life safety education programs, concentrated enforcement of fire prevention codes and operational personnel dedicated to protecting lives are instrumental in the County maintaining a low fatality record. Regionally, FRD has built collaborative relationships with surrounding localities and organizations necessary for responding to emergency incidents regardless of jurisdictional boundaries and across public safety disciplines.

### The Fire and Rescue Department supports the following County Vision Elements:



***Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities***



***Creating a Culture of Engagement***



***Connecting People and Places***



***Practicing Environmental Stewardship***



***Maintaining Healthy Economies***



***Building Livable Spaces***



***Exercising Corporate Stewardship***

## Fire and Rescue Department

Despite high demands for emergency services (over 95,000 incidents in FY 2015) and tightened financial resources, FRD has maintained its ability to meet core responsibilities while striving to remain on the cutting edge of safety and technological advancements. To fund many initiatives the department continually seeks alternative funding sources. During FY 2015, FRD was awarded in excess of \$17.2 million in grant funds. Grant funding is used to support Urban Search and Rescue personnel, purchase personal protective equipment and emergency response vehicles, as well as to support firefighter training and education.

FRD is dedicated to being the best community-focused fire and rescue department and ensuring a safe and secure environment for all residents and visitors. To successfully meet challenges posed by increasing urbanization and a more densely populated response area, FRD will continue to be progressive in efforts to achieve economies of scale through regional cooperation, seek out innovative methods for keeping pace with technology, sustain programs to maintain a healthy workforce and adjust staffing configurations to meet the needs of future growth in Fairfax County.

### Budget and Staff Resources

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
<b>FUNDING</b>				
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	\$157,645,846	\$160,915,197	\$160,935,197	\$167,480,022
Operating Expenses	24,616,219	25,845,599	30,884,907	28,988,239
Capital Equipment	507,181	69,017	136,839	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$182,769,246</b>	<b>\$186,829,813</b>	<b>\$191,956,943</b>	<b>\$196,468,261</b>
Income:				
Fire Prevention Code Permits	\$1,652,991	\$1,470,155	\$1,764,081	\$1,799,363
Fire Marshal Fees	4,440,835	4,588,778	4,662,143	4,755,386
Charges for Services	169,777	142,061	142,061	142,061
EMS Transport Fee	17,927,414	17,879,225	17,927,414	18,017,051
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,191,017</b>	<b>\$24,080,219</b>	<b>\$24,495,699</b>	<b>\$24,713,861</b>
<b>NET COST TO THE COUNTY</b>	<b>\$158,578,229</b>	<b>\$162,749,594</b>	<b>\$167,461,244</b>	<b>\$171,754,400</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>				
Regular	1574 / 1574	1574 / 1574	1592 / 1592	1592 / 1592

This department has 18/16.8 FTE Grant Positions in Fund 50000, Federal-State Grants.

# Fire and Rescue Department

## FY 2017 Funding Adjustments

*The following funding adjustments from the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2017 program.*

- ◆ **Employee Compensation** **\$5,300,983**

An increase of \$5,300,983 in Personnel Services includes \$2,126,388 for a 1.33 percent market rate adjustment (MRA) for all employees and \$193,695 for performance-based and longevity increases for non-uniformed merit employees, both effective July 2016, as well as \$2,857,236 for FY 2017 merit and longevity increases (including the full-year impact of FY 2016 increases) for uniformed employees awarded on the employees' anniversary dates, \$114,065 to remove the two-year hold at Step 8 in the uniformed public safety pay plans, and \$9,599 for employee pay increases for specific job classes identified in the County's benchmark class survey of comparator jurisdictions.
- ◆ **SAFER Positions** **\$1,457,976**

An increase of \$1,457,976 is required to cover the remaining costs associated with 31/31.0 FTE positions which were initially funded by two Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants which expired in FY 2016. The funding for the first SAFER grant, supporting 19/19.0 FTE positions expired in November 2015, while the second, supporting 12/12.0 FTE positions, expires in April 2016. As a result, funding of \$1,257,184 was included in the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan to cover the partial year costs associated with these positions. The FY 2017 adjustment is required to cover the remaining costs. It is important to note that these positions allowed the department to implement the initiative of having a fourth person on eight of the County's 14 ladder truck companies. Four person truck staffing has enhanced FRD's ability to establish firefighting, rescue and medical emergency services in a timely manner, increase the ability to complete time critical tasks on-scene as quickly as possible with the right amount of personnel thus reducing property loss and firefighter injury risks or death. It should be noted that an increase of \$739,396 in Fringe Benefits funding is included in Agency 89, Employee Benefits, for a total cost of \$2,197,372 in FY 2017. For further information on Fringe Benefits, please refer to the Agency 89, Employee Benefits, narrative in the Nondepartmental program area section of Volume 1.
- ◆ **Fire and Rescue Apparatus – County-Owned** **\$1,000,000**

An increase of \$1,000,000 in Operating Expenses is required to support a multi-year process to gradually increase the annual contributions to the Large Apparatus Replacement Fund and Ambulance Replacement Fund. This funding is in addition to the department dedicating additional grant funds, additional baseline funds and one-time contributions in support of this effort. Additional contributions are required due to the increasing cost of vehicles, some fleet growth, and a contribution level that has remained flat since FY 2007. Without additional funding, the replacement reserves will be depleted in the next several years.
- ◆ **Fire and Rescue Apparatus – Volunteer Departments** **\$775,000**

An increase of \$775,000 in Operating Expenses is required to support the replacement of volunteer-owned large apparatus. Currently, out of the 12 volunteer fire departments in Fairfax County, six have notified the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) of their inability to replace volunteer-owned large apparatus. Of the 106 front-line vehicles career FRD staff operates daily for emergency response, 30 are owned by volunteer departments. These vehicles are not additional or extras, they are operated 24-hours a day/7days a week with career personnel as part of the minimum staffing calculation. Without these vehicles, FRD does not have the apparatus available to provide the current level of emergency response coverage throughout the County.

## Fire and Rescue Department

- ◆ **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** **\$925,523**

An increase of \$925,523 in Operating Expenses is required to cover the first year of a seven year lease purchase agreement associated with replacing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. SCBA is a breathing device worn by firefighters to provide breathable air in a toxic environment. It has three main components: a high-pressure tank, a pressure regulator, and an inhalation connection (mouthpiece and facemask), connected together and mounted to a carrying frame. The current equipment was purchased in 2001, and upgraded in 2007, with an expected five-year technical life. The department delayed purchasing replacement equipment in anticipation of the 2013 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 81 on Open-Circuit SCBA for Emergency Services. The current equipment cannot be retro-fit to achieve compliance with NFPA's new standards and, as a result, needs to be completely replaced.
- ◆ **Other Adjustments** **\$83,000**

An increase of \$83,000 is included to annualize adjustments included as part of the *FY 2015 Carryover Review*. Of this total, \$20,000 was for the Functional Movement Screening program to prevent injuries, \$28,000 to allow FRD uniformed personnel to use the County's RECenters to maintain their health and physical fitness, and \$35,000 to purchase flu shot serum in order to reduce the use of sick leave and the associated overtime associated with backfilling positions.
- ◆ **Fiscal Adjustment Associated with FY 2015 Position Realignment** **\$76,998**

An increase of \$76,998 is included reflecting the fiscal adjustment associated with the redirection of a position from the Office of Elections to the Fire and Rescue Department during late 2015. An offsetting decrease is being made in the Office of Elections resulting in no net cost to the County.
- ◆ **Traffic Lights Signalization** **\$25,000**

An increase of \$25,000 is included for Emergency Vehicle Preemption technology which connects with traffic signals to ensure that emergency vehicles are given priority over non-emergency vehicles at intersections. This technology reduces emergency response times and cultivates a safer environment during emergency responses.
- ◆ **Department of Vehicle Services Charges** **(\$6,032)**

A decrease of \$6,032 is included for Department of Vehicle Service charges based on anticipated billings for fuel, vehicle replacement, and maintenance-related charges.

### Changes to FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan

*The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2016 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2015 Carryover Review, and all other approved changes through December 31, 2015.*

- ◆ **Carryover Adjustments** **\$5,127,130**

As part of the *FY 2015 Carryover Review*, the Board of Supervisors approved encumbered funding of \$5,044,130 in Operating Expenses due primarily to contractual requirements, equipment upgrades and uniforms. In addition, funding of \$83,000 was approved by the Board of Supervisors to restore reductions which had been included as part of the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan. Of this total, \$20,000 was for the Functional Movement Screening program to prevent injuries, \$28,000 to allow FRD uniformed personnel to use the County's RECenters to maintain their health and physical fitness, and \$35,000 to purchase flu shot serum in order to reduce the use of sick leave and the associated overtime associated with backfilling positions.

# Fire and Rescue Department

## ◆ SAFER Grant Positions-Third Award

\$0

As approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 22, 2015, an increase of 18/18.0 FTE positions is included associated with the third Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award from the Department of Homeland Security through FEMA. The costs associated with these positions are currently being fully covered by the grant funding, thus there is no fiscal impact at this time. The grant period is for two years and the funding expires on September 21, 2017. If the positions are to continue beyond this date, the General Fund will have to absorb the costs, currently estimated to be \$2,056,052 for the remainder of FY 2018, with full-year FY 2019 costs estimated to be an additional \$411,210 on top of the FY 2018 total. It is important to note that these positions have allowed the department to complete the initiative of having a fourth person on all 14 ladder truck companies. Four person truck staffing has enhanced FRD's ability to establish on-scene firefighting, rescue and medical emergency services in a more timely and efficient manner, with the right amount of personnel thus reducing property loss and firefighter injury risks or death.

## Cost Centers

The four cost centers of the Fire and Rescue Department are Bureau of the Fire Chief, Operations Bureau, Business Services Bureau, and Personnel Services Bureau. The cost centers work together to fulfill the mission of the department and carry out key initiatives for the fiscal year.

### Bureau of the Fire Chief

The Bureau of the Fire Chief manages and coordinates all aspects of the Fire and Rescue Department which includes directing overall policy, planning and management of the department. This bureau also includes the department's Public Information Section, Life Safety Education Section and the Security Intelligence Liaison.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$1,198,902	\$1,103,927	\$1,102,521	\$1,208,749
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	10 / 10	10 / 10	11 / 11	11 / 11
1 Fire Chief	1 Captain I		1 Administrative Associate	
1 Deputy Fire Chief	2 Life Safety Education Specialists		1 Administrative Assistant V	
1 Battalion Chief	1 Public Safety Information Officer IV		1 Administrative Assistant IV	
1 Fire Lieutenant				
TOTAL POSITIONS				
11 Positions / 11.0 FTE				
5 Uniformed / 6 Civilian				

# Fire and Rescue Department

## Operations Bureau

The Operations Bureau is composed of the Field Operations Division, Emergency Medical Services Administration Division and the Special Operations Division. The goal of the Operations Bureau is to save lives and protect property by providing emergency and non-emergency response to residents and visitors of Fairfax County. The Operations Bureau operates on three separate 24-hour rotation shifts. Each shift is led by a Deputy Fire Chief. The County is separated geographically into seven battalions, each managed by a battalion management team of a Battalion Fire Chief and EMS Captain. Fire suppression personnel and paramedics work in tandem to ensure the highest level of safety and care for residents and visitors of Fairfax County.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Total Expenditures	\$143,158,835	\$150,076,896	\$151,970,991	\$157,927,651
<b>AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>				
Regular	1278 / 1278	1278 / 1278	1288 / 1288	1288 / 1288
1 Assistant Fire Chief	174 Lieutenants, 3 AP	3 Management Analysts I		
5 Deputy Fire Chiefs	562 Fire Technicians, 3 AP	1 Administrative Assistant IV		
25 Battalion Chiefs	366 Firefighters, 3 AP	2 Administrative Assistants III		
62 Captains II, 2 AP	2 Management Analysts III	1 Material Management Assistant		
83 Captains I		1 Emergency Management Specialist III		
<b>TOTAL POSITIONS</b>				
1,288 Positions / 1,288.0 FTE				
1,278 Uniformed / 10 Civilians				
AP Denotes Alternative Placement Program				

## Business Services Bureau

The Business Services Bureau consists of the Fire Prevention Division, Fiscal Services Division, Planning Section and the Support Services Division. Business Services functions are critical to ensuring the Operations Bureau has the resources needed to respond to emergency incidents.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Total Expenditures	\$22,072,712	\$20,818,307	\$23,372,872	\$22,088,817
<b>AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>				
Regular	216 / 216	216 / 216	217 / 217	217 / 217



## Fire and Rescue Department

1	Assistant Fire Chief	1	Business Analyst II	1	Management Analyst IV
2	Deputy Fire Chiefs	1	Network/Telecom. Analyst III	2	Management Analysts III
4	Battalion Chiefs	1	Network/Telecom. Analyst II	2	Management Analysts II
5	Captains II	3	Network/Telecom. Analysts I	3	Management Analysts I
15	Captains I	1	Program and Procedures Coordinator	38	Fire Inspectors II
14	Lieutenants	1	Financial Specialist IV	5	Fire Inspectors III
1	Fire Apparatus Supervisor	5	Financial Specialists III	1	Instrumentation Technician III
1	Asst. Fire Apparatus Supervisor	2	Financial Specialists II	1	Vehicle Maintenance Coordinator
7	Fire Technicians	2	Financial Specialists I	2	Instrumentation Technicians II
9	Fire Apparatus Mechanics	1	Geographic Information Spatial Analyst III	2	Material Management Specialists III
31	Firefighters	2	Geographic Information Spatial Analysts II	3	Engineering Technicians I
1	IT Program Manager I	3	Code Specialists II	2	Material Management Specialists II
1	Engineer IV	1	Emergency Management Specialist III	1	Material Management Driver
13	Engineers III	1	Administrative Assistant V	2	Material Management Specialists I
2	Programmer Analysts III	5	Administrative Assistants IV	1	Truck Driver
1	Programmer Analyst II	6	Administrative Assistants III	1	Inventory Manager
1	Business Analyst III	4	Administrative Assistants II	1	Buyer II

### **TOTAL POSITIONS**

217 Positions / 217.0 FTE

79 Uniformed / 138 Civilians

### **Personnel Services Bureau**

The Personnel Services Bureau includes the Safety and Personnel Services Division, Training Division and Volunteer Liaison's Office. This bureau strives to provide a representative work force through equal employment opportunity, active recruitment of qualified applicants and volunteers, basic training, professional certifications and continuing education. They are responsible for occupational safety, health and wellness, payroll and human resources functions.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Total Expenditures	\$16,338,797	\$14,830,683	\$15,510,559	\$15,243,044
<b>AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>				
Regular	70 / 70	70 / 70	76 / 76	76 / 76

1	Assistant Fire Chief	2	Human Resource Generalists III	1	Business Analyst I
2	Deputy Fire Chiefs	1	Internal Affairs Investigator	3	Human Resource Generalists I
2	Battalion Chiefs	2	Management Analysts III	1	Administrative Assistant V
9	Captains II	3	Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assts.	6	Administrative Assistants IV
9	Captains I	2	Human Resource Generalists II	3	Administrative Assistants III
15	Lieutenants	2	Management Analysts II	1	Facility Attendant II
1	Fire Technician	1	Human Resource Generalist IV	2	Administrative Assistants II
6	Firefighters	1	Public Health Nurse III		

### **TOTAL POSITIONS**

76 Positions / 76.0 FTE

45 Uniformed / 31 Civilian

# Fire and Rescue Department

## Key Performance Measures

Indicator	Prior Year Actuals			Current Estimate	Future Estimate
	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate/Actual	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Operations Bureau</b>					
Percent ALS transport units on scene within 9 minutes	86.70%	89.10%	90.00%/89.95%	90.00%	90.00%
AED response rate within 5 minutes	57.00%	56.37%	60.00%/54.57%	60.00%	60.00%
Total incidents responded to	90,205	91,308	92,000/95,364	95,000	95,000
Fire suppression response rate for the arrival of an engine company on a structure fire within 5 minutes and 20 seconds	52.40%	53.00%	60.00%/51.90%	54.00%	54.00%
Fire suppression response rate for 15 personnel within 9 minutes and 20 seconds	83.90%	87.20%	88.00%/83.18%	88.00%	88.00%
Percent of cardiac arrest patients arriving at the Emergency Department with a pulse	52.3%	55.9%	30.0%/58.5%	30.0%	30.0%
Number of smoke alarms distributed and installed	NA	NA	6,000/5,711	6,000	6,000
Number of FOLs used as resource in patient encounters	NA	NA	1,000/1,543	1,000	1,000
Fire loss (millions)	\$6.8	\$12.3	\$10.0/\$15.9	\$16.0	\$16.0
Fire loss as percent of total property valuation	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%/0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Total civilian fire deaths	6	6	5/2	5	5
Civilian fire deaths per 100,000 population	0.53	0.50	0.50/0.17	0.50	0.50
Civilian fire-related burn injuries	28	25	25/18	25	25
Civilian fire-related burn injuries per 100,000 population	2.5	2.5	2.5/1.6	2.5	2.5

# Fire and Rescue Department

Indicator	Prior Year Actuals			Current Estimate	Future Estimate
	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate/Actual	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Business Services Bureau</b>					
Preschool and kindergarten students served	22,371	26,223	25,000/23,260	25,000	25,000
Senior citizens served	8,545	9,479	9,000/7,810	9,000	9,000
Children (5 years and under) deaths due to fire	0	0	0/0	0	0
Children (5 years and under) burn injuries	1	0	1/0	1	1
Senior citizen (over age 60) deaths due to fire	0	2	0/0	0	0
Senior citizen (over age 60) burn injuries	2	3	2/1	2	2
Fire investigations conducted (including arson cases)	329	283	300/386	405	450
Hazardous materials cases investigated	299	269	375/258	400	450
Fire inspection activities conducted	18,024	21,920	21,000/20,942	21,000	21,500
Systems testing activities conducted	16,450	15,097	16,500/15,954	16,500	17,000
Revenue generated for all inspection activities	\$4,386,585	\$4,344,776	\$4,331,750/\$4,996,109	\$5,591,359	\$5,781,125
Percent of fire prevention services cost recovered	93.8%	85.8%	95.0%/100.0%	100.0%	95.0%
Percent total fire investigation cases closed (fires, bombings, threats and arson)	62.4%	77.3%	65.0%/89.4%	85.0%	85.0%
Percent arson cases closed	42.1%	40.0%	40.0%/64.8%	50.0%	50.0%
Percent hazardous materials cases closed	94.6%	94.0%	85.0%/91.8%	85.0%	85.0%
Total fire loss for commercial structures	\$576,701	\$1,050,700	\$2,000,000/\$3,922,538	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Transport billing (in millions)	\$16.6	\$16.6	\$17.6/\$17.6	\$17.9	\$17.9
<b>Personnel Services Bureau</b>					
Hours of direct service	91,808	97,829	96,000/87,768	90,000	95,000
Times volunteer-staffed emergency vehicles are placed in service annually	1,697	1,739	1,750/1,520	1,650	1,700
Trained career firefighters added to workforce	52	84	80/81	80	80

A complete list of performance measures can be viewed at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/advertised/pm/92.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/advertised/pm/92.pdf)

# Fire and Rescue Department

## Performance Measurement Results

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has identified a four-pronged approach to a total community fire and life safety program:

- Prevent the 911 call through community outreach, education and prevention programs including building inspections and code enforcement;
- Respond to structure fires to save lives and property;
- Respond to medical emergencies to save lives; and
- Respond to all hazards incidents to save lives, property and the environment.

In Virginia, fires are the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury or death. The overarching priority of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is to "Prevent the 911 Call" to reduce the risk that any Fairfax County resident, business employee, or visitor will suffer a fire injury or death, and reduce the chances of fire-related property loss or damage. To achieve the goal of preventing the 911 call, FRD is committed to community outreach, and providing essential fire prevention and life safety education programs.

FRD initiated an aggressive countywide community outreach program in June 2013 titled "Safety in Our Community" (SIOC). Each Saturday throughout the spring, summer, and fall, fire personnel canvass neighborhoods door to door checking for working smoke alarms, installing new alarms if needed, checking placement of outdoor cooking appliances, offering home safety inspections, and delivering fire and life safety information. In April 2014, the FRD initiated "Wellness in Our Community" (WIOC) an extension of its successful countywide community outreach program. This program involves firefighters and paramedics giving presentations at senior centers and assisted living facilities as well as delivering File of Life forms to County residents.

In FY 2017, the department's Public Affairs/Life Safety Education program anticipates serving 25,000 preschooler and kindergarten students, 8,000 school-age children, and 9,000 older adults in an effort to eradicate fire deaths and burn injuries within these high risk populations. In FY 2015, Operations responded to 95,364 incidents. FRD reports cardiac arrest outcomes using the Utstein template, the international standard for cardiac arrest reporting, as it more accurately reflects the population of patients for whom pre-hospital interventions have the most impact. The strongest predictor of survival is the return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse) prior to arrival at a hospital; as reported by the National Association of EMS Physicians, the national average is 23 percent. FRD's performance outcome of 58.5 percent achieved in FY 2015 once again exceeds national averages.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a standard-setting organization for fire departments, adopts standards regarding response time objectives and staffing levels. The Service Quality indicators reported by FRD track the percent of time the department meets NFPA standards. NFPA response time standards for structure fires require the first engine company to arrive on the scene of a structure fire within five minutes and 20 seconds, and 15 firefighters to arrive on scene within nine minutes and 20 seconds, 90 percent of the time. In FY 2015, the department met these standards, 51.9 percent and 83.2 percent of the time respectively. NFPA response time standards for medical emergencies require an advanced life support (ALS) transport unit on scene within nine minutes and an AED on scene within five minutes, 90 percent of the time. In FY 2015, these response goals were met 90.0 percent and 54.6 percent of the time respectively.

## Fire and Rescue Department

As a result of increased staffing the department's goal is to improve response times to both fire and medical incidents.

Fire Prevention Services activities are designed to minimize property loss in commercial (non-residential) fires through effective and comprehensive inspections that enforce all applicable codes. The FY 2015 commercial fire loss was \$3,922,538 which was higher than the stated objective goal of less than \$2.0 million due to one large commercial fire in an office building which resulted in a total property loss of over \$2.2 million. The FY 2017 and FY 2018 estimates for commercial fire losses remain at \$2.0 million. Fire marshal fees were raised in mid-FY 2015 by approximately 20 percent which generated additional revenue of nearly \$775,000 in FY 2015. Fee increases were required to maintain cost recovery rates for these services at the 90-100 percent cost recovery threshold adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Fire Investigation Services investigates fire and hazardous materials cases with the goal of closing a high percentage of cases within a year. In FY 2015, the percentage of hazardous materials cases closed, 91.8 percent, was high due to the large number of notification cases which are immediately opened and closed. It is anticipated that the number of hazardous materials cases investigated will increase due to heightened awareness regarding reporting requirements under the County's new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit language. Training will heighten County staff's awareness regarding releases of hazardous materials that have gone unreported in the past. All releases, even parking lots stained with petroleum products, will be required to be reported. As a result, staff anticipates a continued increase in workload to handle small release notifications in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

Maintaining a well-trained fully staffed workforce is key to the department's ability to function. The Training Division graduated 81 career firefighters during FY 2015 of which 29 were medics. In FY 2015, as well as in FY 2016, FRD increased the number of recruits enrolled in recruit schools to meet the increased staffing requirements to add the 4th person on trucks as a result of being awarded three Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants.

As a result of the Volunteer SAFER Recruitment and Retention grant awarded in 2011, the volunteer departments have continued to experience growth in total membership. However, there was 10 percent decrease in direct operational service hours as well as a reduction in the number of times volunteer units were put in service during FY 2015. Both decreases are due to the increased number of training hours required for new training requirements such as ambulance aid or driver qualifications which limit the volunteers' ability to place units in service.